

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Patent Application for:

Interactive Telephone System for Optimizing Service Economy

Parent Application Serial No: 07/873,323

Filed: June 2, 1994

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18. [New] A system for establishing a telephone communication link between a subscriber telephone station and a destination telephone station, comprising:
control means including a caller response unit;
storage means connected to the control means and operable for storing a local direct inward dial telephone number associated with a subscriber and for storing a subscriber remote telephone number associated with the subscriber telephone station;
first telephone connection means connected to the control means and operable for connecting to a telephone exchange and for receiving an incoming direct inward dial telephone number from the telephone exchange as part of an incoming call attempt;
second telephone connection means connected to the control means and operable for dialing out through the telephone exchange;
the control means further operable for comparing the incoming direct inward dial telephone number to the local direct inward dial telephone number and, if the incoming direct inward dial telephone number matches the local direct inward dial telephone number associated with the subscriber, the control means is further operable for:
calling the subscriber remote telephone number through the first telephone connection means;
receiving from the subscriber a calling telephone number for the destination station;
calling the calling telephone number through the second telephone connection means; and for
bridging the first telephone connection means to the second telephone connection means so that the subscriber is connected to the destination.

19. [New] The system according to claim 18 wherein the control means is further operable for indicating an invalid call attempt if the incoming call attempt does not terminate within the predetermined period of time.

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20. [New] The system according to claim 19 wherein the control means is further operable for answering the incoming call attempt in response to the invalid call attempt and for presenting an audio message onto the first telephone connection means in response to the invalid call attempt.

21. [New]

The system according to claim 18 wherein the control means is further operable for indicating an invalid call attempt if the incoming direct inward dial telephone number does not match the local direct inward dial telephone number associated with the subscriber.

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22. [New] The system according to claim 21 wherein the control means is further operable for answering the incoming call attempt and for presenting an audio message onto the first telephone connection means in response to the invalid call attempt.

23. [New]

A method establishing a telephone communication link between a subscriber telephone station and a destination telephone station, comprising the steps of:
storing a local direct inward dial telephone number associated with a subscriber;

storing a subscriber remote telephone number associated with the subscriber telephone station;

receiving an incoming direct inward dial telephone number from a first telephone exchange connection as part of an incoming call attempt;

comparing the incoming direct inward dial telephone number to the local direct inward dial telephone number and if the incoming direct inward dial telephone number matches the local direct inward dial telephone number associated with the subscriber, performing the following steps:

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calling the subscriber remote telephone number;
receiving from the subscriber a calling telephone number for the destination station;
calling the calling telephone number through a second telephone exchange connection; and
bridging the first telephone exchange connection to the second telephone exchange connection so that the subscriber is connected to the destination.

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24. [New] The method according to claim 23 further comprising the steps of comparing the incoming direct inward dial telephone number to the local direct inward dial telephone number and if the incoming direct inward dial telephone number does not match the local direct inward dial telephone number associated with the subscriber, terminating the incoming call attempt.

25. [New] The method according to claim 23 further comprising the steps of comparing the incoming direct inward dial telephone number to the local direct inward dial telephone number and if the incoming direct inward dial telephone number does not match the local direct inward dial telephone number associated with the subscriber, answering the incoming call attempt and playing a prerecorded message.

26. [New] The method according to claim 23 further comprising the steps of timing the incoming call attempt and indicating an invalid call attempt if the incoming call attempt does not terminate within a predetermined period of time.